



The Salina Citizen

Winter 2001

Dear Salina Citizens:

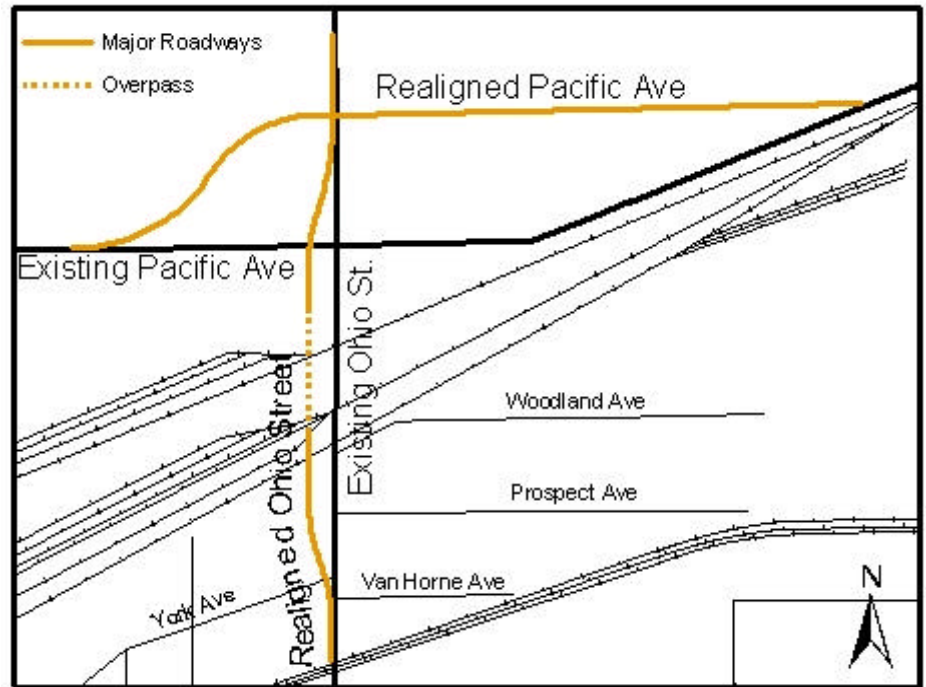
The City of Salina is pleased to present to you the Summer 2000 edition of *The Salina Citizen*. We hope this issue not only helps inform you in regard to City projects, but stimulates your interest and participation in local government.

The City Commission and members of the City staff encourage you to ask questions and to make your views known. This is an exciting and challenging time for our community.

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you to meet the challenges ahead.

Sincerely,

Salina City Commission



N. OHIO OVERPASS WILL HAPPEN, EVENTUALLY

WE'RE AT YOUR SERVICE

In order to serve you better, City staff maintains a computerized Citizen Service Request (CSR) system. This system assists staff in expediting and effectively responding to citizen concerns.

If you have questions or service requests, please contact the City Manager's office at 826-7250. You may also send questions or requests via our e-mail link on the City of Salina's Official Municipal Web Site: www.ci.salina.ks.us

On October 18, 2000, the Kansas Department of Transportation announced a grant award to the City of Salina in the amount of \$12.3 million for the construction of the North Ohio Street Railroad Overpass Project. The project, with a total estimated cost of \$18.3 million, will be one of the largest single infrastructure projects in the history of Salina. Certainly, the grant from KDOT is the largest state funded award for any single transportation project in Salina. On November 27, 2000, the Salina City Commission concurred in the grant award from KDOT and tentatively authorized the \$6 million local match of funds for the project.

The funding for City's share of the project will come from the City's 5-year Capital Improvement Program.

The south end of the overpass will begin at York Avenue/Van Horne Avenue. The north end of the overpass will be located approximately 650 feet north of Pacific Avenue/Old U.S. Highway 40. The project includes the following features:

- A 570-foot bridge over six(6) railroad tracks, eliminating all existing railroad crossings on North Ohio Street.
- Removal of nineteen (19) railroad crossings including four(4) on North Ohio Street.

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Chart & Job Opportunities

7 Overview of the City's Capital Improvement Program & Project Update.

SALINA FIRE DEPARTMENT CHANGES WITH TIMES

Fighting a fire can be very dangerous and complex, but fire fighters will tell you it basically comes down to putting the wet stuff on the red stuff. The concept has not changed through the ages, but the art of getting it done has. The Salina Fire Department has been busy keeping up with these changes. It starts with the vehicles that fire fighters utilize. Gone are the fire engines where fire fighters had to ride standing on the tailboard, holding onto the cross bar. This past year marked the end of that era for Salina, when two new fire engines were purchased and the last tailboard designed engine (a 1966 Dodge reserve unit) was traded off. The two engines that were purchased both have an enclosed cab for all the fire fighters. These engines are capable of pumping

1500 gallons of water per minute. One of the new engines is called a "quint" because of its' five features; water pump, water tank, fire hose, aerial ladder, and ground ladders. The new quint gives Salina a first-in aerial ladder for the north Salina station, while a second quint is housed in the east fire station, and the south station houses the cities' 100' platform aerial ladder.

New vehicles, tools, and methods of taking care of fires such as thermal imaging cameras and foam concentrates certainly help, but the two most important ways to address fires are PREVENTION and EARLY DETECTION. The Salina Fire Department concentrates its' prevention efforts on both com-



Fire Truck located at Station 1

mercial and residential fire prevention. Fire Prevention Officers and company crews visit commercial businesses once a year for a fire prevention survey. The survey may reveal something quite simple that could save a business from the devastation of a fire. The department's Public Educator teaches fire safety in all of Salina's grade

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NORTH OHIO STREET OVERPASS

- Elimination of a majority of the daily blockage of railroad crossings in downtown Salina including North Street, Elm Street, Ash Street, Iron Avenue, Walnut Street, Mulberry Street, South Street, Prescott Avenue and Crawford Street.
- Relocation of approximately 4,000 feet of Old U.S. Highway 40/Pacific Avenue to accommodate the new railroad overpass.
- Elimination of 28 vehicle hours per day of traffic delay on North Ohio Street.

The new Ohio Street Overpass will be built parallel to, but west of, the existing Ohio Street between York Street and Pacific Avenue. This will affect most of the existing properties and buildings along the west side of Ohio Street. On the other hand, the existing Ohio Street will remain open to traffic throughout the majority of the con-

struction of the overpass. After construction, properties along the east side of Ohio Street will gain access to their properties from a "Ohio Street frontage road."

A project of this magnitude takes several years to plan as shown by the following timeline. It is important to note that actual construction on the overpass is not scheduled to begin until 2005. Leading up to the actual the construction the City will be working with KDOT, Union Pacific Railroad, and the affected property owners to ensure that the project is successful.

January – March, 2001

Hire design engineering consultant.
Negotiate agreement with Union Pacific Railroad Company.
Meet with affected property owners.

2001 – 2004

Project design, land acquisition, and utility/railroad relocation.

January, 2005

Project bid letting.

March, 2005 – Nov, 2006

Project construction.

November 20, 2006

Project complete and open to traffic.

As a City we are excited by all the benefits that a project such as this can bring to a community. We are looking forward to working with all the involved parties and changing the landscape of N. Ohio Street in a manner that is positive for the entire community. If there are any questions or concerns regarding this project, please contact Mr. Shawn O'Leary, City Engineer at 826-7290.

RENOVATING LOCOMOTIVE 477

Visitors to the City's Kenwood Park this spring will find a new look to the once fenced and partially deteriorated locomotive. The locomotive was originally donated by the Union Pacific Railroad and moved to its Kenwood Park site in July 1955. This particular engine, a series 1600 engine model, was probably utilized in the Rocky Mountains in Utah and Wyoming. Around 1915, the engine was rebuilt and transferred to the plains states and renumbered 477. During this period, the engine was primarily utilized for short runs in central and western Kansas up to its retirement in 1955.

The renovation of the locomotive will be completed early this spring. Following asbestos removal in 1999, the entire engine and coal tender were sandblasted and repainted last year; new wood was installed inside the engineer's cab and new lettering and emblems added. City Parks and Recreation crews have installed a 65 foot

handicapped access ramp, which will allow all citizens the opportunity to experience the massive-ness of the train engine. Once completed, the chain link fence surrounding the locomotive will be removed and replaced with landscaping and wood chips.

The costs of renovating the locomotive have been a private/public joint venture with the City's Building and Facilities program covering the cost for asbestos removal and painting. While two local organizations, the Union Pacific Employees Club and The Red Baron Chapter of Salina Ambucs, have provided financial assistance for the informational sign and accessible ramp. The Union Pacific Employees Club provided the new emblems and materials for the information sign and the Red Baron Ambucs provided funds for materi-



Locomotive 477 located in Kenwood Park

als for the accessible ramp. We are excited about the completion of the project and believe the renovated locomotive will be a nice addition to Kenwood Park.

SALINA FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

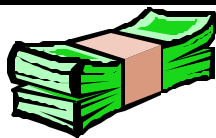
schools. However, there is a group of children the Fire Department is unable to educate. Children that are too young and have not entered school system are very capable of starting a serious structure fire and it is highly likely that these children do not fully understand the severe consequences of a fire. For these children, the parents, guardians or big brothers and sisters must be the teachers of fire prevention.

When prevention efforts fail the most important thing for the occupant and the fire department is early detection. The chances of escaping a fire and the ability for fire fighters to extinguish a fire are greatly enhanced by early fire de-

tection. The smoke detector is the key to this part of fire protection. If you need advice on smoke detectors or if you need a smoke detector and cannot afford one call the Salina Fire Department at 826-7340.

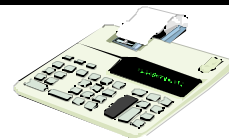
The mission of the Salina Fire Department is "Excellence in the prevention and mitigation of emergencies." If the Salina Fire Department does its' part in this mission and the citizens do their part, we can continue to have a positive impact on the number and severity of fires in Salina.





The 2001 Annual Budget

Setting Public Priorities through the Budget Process



In August, the City Commission established the 2001 budget. The budget is comprised of three distinct parts: an operating budget to account for general operations; a capital budget to fund public improvements and construction; and a debt service budget to fund major capital projects in which municipal bonds are utilized. The annual budgetary process provides Commissioners with an opportunity to evaluate existing programs and services. From this, they can better establish future priorities for service and program levels based on community needs.

Once the scope of services is determined and costs estimated, revenues are evaluated to determine availability from each source (i.e., taxes, fees, or other governmental funding types). If revenue availability does not support the proposed expenditures, the City Commission must make the difficult choice of either increasing revenues or reducing service levels.

Salina begins the budgetary

process by reviewing the current year's services. They look at service quality and efficiency to determine if service levels should increase, decrease, remain the same, or be discontinued. These budget discussions with City Staff begin in April. Individual Departmental requests are presented by mid-May and the next six weeks involve in-depth review of priorities and service alternatives. In early July, the City Manager presents a proposed working budget to the City Commission. The City Commissioners then publicly meet several times to discuss and form the budget for the new year. This entails examination of various service alternatives and a decision regarding the City's direction for the upcoming year. Formal public hearings are held in August, with a final decision made at that time. All meetings and communications with the City Commission are always open to the public.

Total expenditures for 2001 are budgeted to be approximately **\$49.9** million. This includes **\$37.5** for general operations, **\$6.2** million for capi-

tal projects, and **\$6.2** for debt retirement. Once again, the City Commission has set a goal of holding down the property tax mill levy. In fact, Salina continues to have one of the lowest property tax rates of any first class city in Kansas.

The overall goal of the City budget is clear: maintain a high quality of operating services, protect the public, improve our streets and utilities, enhance the quality of community services, and respond attentively to citizen concerns. Clearly, the establishment of the budget is one of the most important items on any Commissioner's agenda. As a result, citizens are always invited and encouraged to participate in the process. This is also a reason the City annually prepares the *Budget-In-Brief* — a short, easy to understand overview of the City budget. Please contact the City Manager's Office at 826-7250 if you should have any questions or would like additional information.

For further information on City finances, please contact the City Manager's office at 826-7250 and request a copy of the 2000 Budget-In-Brief.

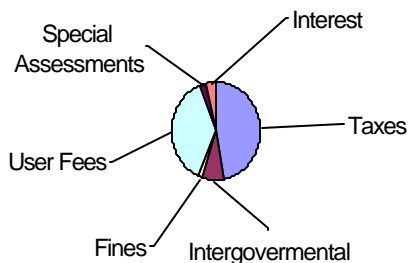
	Amount	Percent
Taxes:		
Sales	\$ 11,840,000	24%
Property	\$ 6,810,249	14%
Franchise	\$ 2,087,500	4%
Motor Vehicle	\$ 987,897	2%
Transient Guest	\$ 850,000	2%
Delinquent Taxes	\$ 128,000	0%
Total Taxes	\$ 22,703,646	46%

	Amount	Percent
User Fees:		
Water	\$ 6,300,000	13%
Wastewater	\$ 4,850,000	10%
Sanitation	\$ 1,700,000	3%
Solid Waste	\$ 2,000,000	4%
BiCenter	\$ 810,000	2%
Golf Course	\$ 883,200	2%
Recreation	\$ 415,000	1%
Ambulance	\$ 575,000	1%
Other User Fees	\$ 165,125	0%
Total User Fees	\$ 17,698,325	36%

Other Revenues:		
Intergovernmental	\$ 3,585,512	7%
Fines	\$ 1,000,000	2%
Special Assessments	\$ 1,200,000	2%
Interest	\$ 1,196,131	2%
Miscellaneous Other	\$ 1,728,660	4%
Total Other Revenues:	\$ 8,710,303	18%

Total Revenues:	\$ 49,112,274	100%
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2001 City Revenues



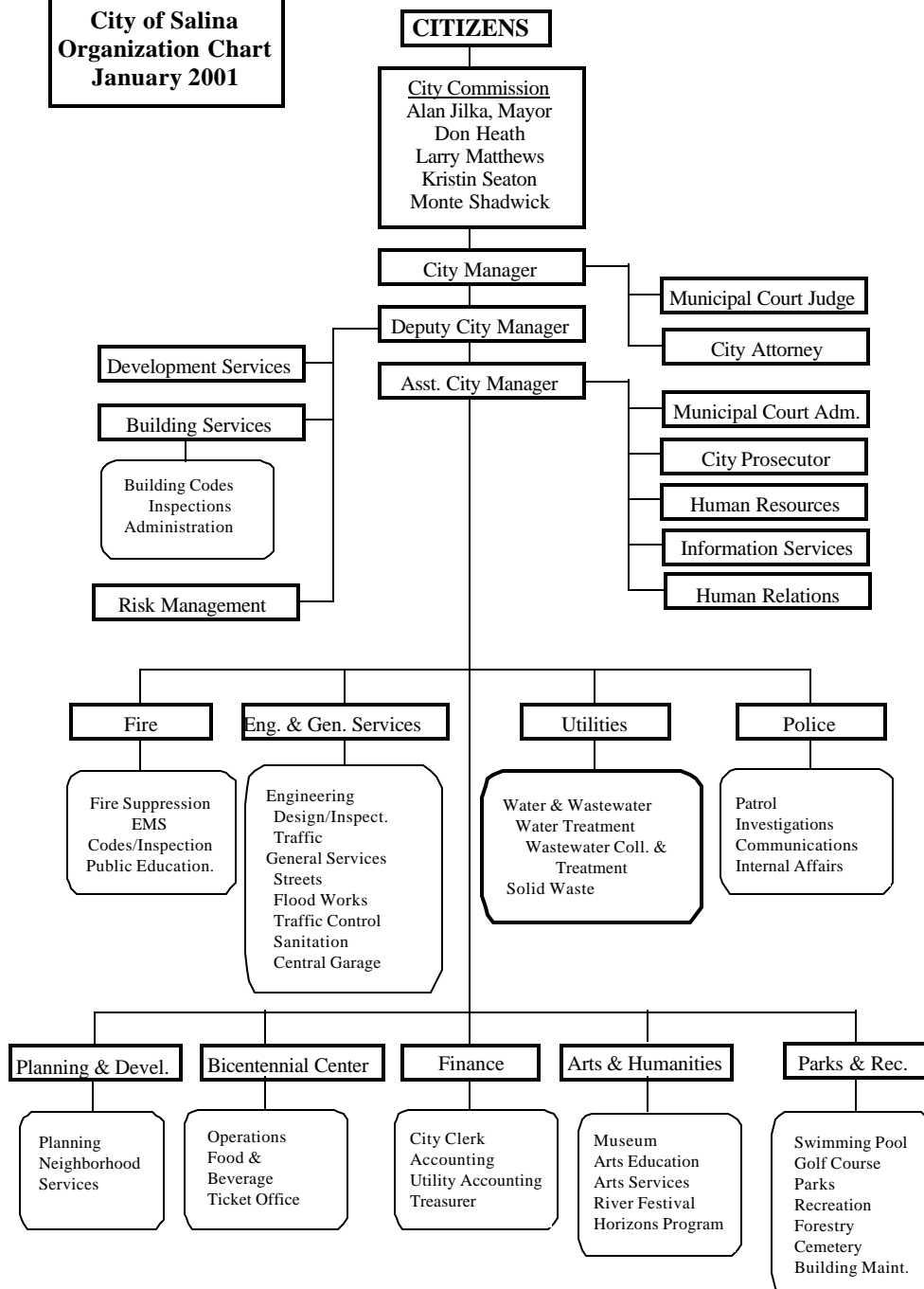
CITY ORGANIZATION & BUILDING UNDERGOES CHANGES

The City of Salina organizational chart underwent some changes in 2000 with the establishment of the Department of Building Services. Along with the organizational chart changes came the remodeling of the Engineering Department, Planning & Community Development Department, Utilities Administration Department, and the Department of

Building Services all of which are located on the south side of the second floor in the City/County Building. This internal remodeling was completed in mid-October and included re-designed office spaces, new carpet, desks, and other office supplies. We appreciate the patience we received from our customers during the remodeling.

City staff feels these changes will greatly improve our internal processes and lines of communication. As a result, service delivery to the citizenry will be more efficient, thereby providing an even higher quality of services.

**City of Salina
Organization Chart
January 2001**



Job Opportunities

City of Salina job vacancies are advertised in the *Salina Journal* on the 1st and 15th of every month and can be seen daily on the Government Information Channel (20). Depending on the nature of the position, the City may advertise in other publications.

A City of Salina employment application must be completed for each position and a resume may be attached to the application. The City generally establishes application deadlines for all advertised positions. The length of the deadline is usually a minimum of ten (10) days.

Following the closing date, applications are screened by the supervisors from the department that has the vacancy. Candidates are selected for interview and/or testing based on the information provided. After interviews and reference checks are conducted, and approval from the City Manager is received, candidates are provided a conditional employment offer. As a condition of employment, the candidates must pass a physical examination to ensure that they can perform the essential functions of the job. All new employees must pass a drug test as a condition of employment. All other remaining candidates are notified by mail of their status.

For more information on City of Salina employment opportunities, please call the Human Resources Department at 826-7400 or (TDD) at 826-7333. The Human Resources Department is located in Room 201, City-County Building, 300 West Ash.

HOME BUYING TIPS

The purchase of a home is often most significant expense that a person, couple or family will make. Prospective home buyers are encouraged to become informed consumers before making such a purchase to best protect their investment and to avoid unnecessary surprises and frustrations. Over the years, there have been several instances where homeowners were unaware of the current zoning, special assessments, covenants, future land use designation, or future road designation of the land that abuts their homes or neighborhood. In hindsight, if the homeowners had done more research, they may have chosen to reexamine their purchase all together, modify their purchase price offer or re-thought any outdoor planned improvements such as landscaping, a swimming pool

or a deck location. Often, disappointed home buyers say that they were not aware of what was planned around their home.

Whether you are buying a new or an older home, the city of Salina encourages all prospective home buyers to:

(1) Obtain and examine the information available including the **Building Address file**. This file, available from the Department of Building Services, generally includes valuable information including when the home was built, who built it, cost of construction, zoning classification, copy of the site plan, copy of the building plans, permits for remodeling and other improvements and other related information. You may inspect the address file at our office. Also, if you would like a copy of the file or just a quick question

answered, give us a call.

(2) **Re-view the real estate**



records at the Saline County Register of Deeds Office and the Saline County Appraiser's Office to determine the existence of recorded deed restrictions and covenants, notices of current or future tax assessments, and other matters which might affect the house and/or other structures or the land that you are considering purchasing.

(3) Request a free copy of the information-packed brochure, "Building or Buying a New Home, Tips for Avoiding Surprises."

QUESTION FOR CONTRACTORS

The first steps to choosing the correct contract for your home improvement project is to decide what questions should be asked of the contractor. When you are making a list of question, keep in mind you are buying a service, not just a product. The contractor's ability to provide the service is just as important as you new home or addition.

The following are some suggested topic that the City suggesting discussing with a potential contractor:

(1) Call the City's Building Services Department and ask what licenses and permits are required for your proposed project. Then ask the contractor the same question. If the City's answers differ from those of the contractor's, the discrepancies will need to be clarified early on in the process.

(2) Have the contractor submit a written proposal, which describes the work to be done, the cost of the work, and a completion date. Good propos-

als list clearly what is to be done as well as what is not included. A well written proposal reduces the potential for misunderstanding and conflict.

(3) The written proposal should include estimate for payment. If the proposal does not ask the contractor to submit a preliminary payment summary. Some projects require money

"Have the contractor submit a list of past clients (name, address, and telephone number."

before the job starts, especially if an item has to be special ordered before the project begins. However, "up-front" payments are not a good practice and should be avoided if possible. If you cannot avoid "up-front" payments an agreement where the material is paid for upon delivery can provide some protection to the consumer.

(4) Have the contractor submit a list of past clients (name, address, and telephone number). Many professionals recommend as many as requesting twenty references. The key is not to be content with just a few. Most companies can give you a few customers that they know are happy. If a prior client will let you view the contractors work, it would be well worth your time to do so.

(5) Have the contractor submit a list of all subcontractors and suppliers. Before final payment is made be sure that they have satisfied all debts relating to your project. The last thing a you want is an unpaid supplier or subcontractor to place a lien against your project.

Each remodeling or building project presents its owns difficulties and inconveniences. However, a person that performs a little homework early on can save themselves a lot of problems.

THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Each year the City Commission prioritizes major projects for the next five years. This is an important part of local government because it outlines many of the largest expenditures made by our community.

Although elected officials ultimately make the decision on the capital improvements program (CIP), citizen input is a vital part of the process. Commissioners welcome constructive suggestions and recommendations in prioritizing potential projects because it gives them and understanding of what improvements the community wants to see.

Each year in the spring, City staff reviews the financial and physical feasibility of proposed

projects. Reports are provided to the City Commission detailing potential projects.

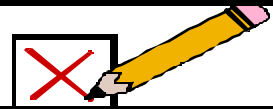
The City Commission spends a significant amount of time in study sessions reviewing the projects. During a regularly scheduled meeting, they vote on the annual update of the 5-year plan. At the time of the vote, Commissioners have taken citizen input into consideration among numerous other factors. The Capital Improvement Program is an integral part of local government. For 2001, the budget for capital improvements is \$12,258,000. The majority of these projects are construction projects such as the Water Plant Expansion, South Marymount Road Reconstruction, and Municipal Court Expansion. Other capital expenditures



are annual or recurrent programs including: contracted street repairs, stormwater projects and planning, vehicle and equipment replacement, and computers and technology.

PROJECT UPDATES

SOUTH OHIO STREET PROJECT COMPLETED



On November 20, 2000 the City of Salina completed one of the largest, single infrastructure projects in the history of Salina. The project involved major street and flood control improvements on South Ohio Street from Belmont Boulevard to Magnolia Road and on Magnolia Road from Ohio Street to Belmont Boulevard. The project will provide benefits in the way of alleviating flooding problems and drainage inadequacies along Magnolia Road, S. Ohio, and Belmont Boulevard. Furthermore, the project will improve traffic flow and safety for the S. Ohio Street/Belmont Blvd./Wayne Ave. intersection and at S. Ohio Street/Magnolia Road. Realignment, dedicated turn lanes and traffic signals will improve efficiency and safety of the intersection. The road improvements will accommodate future growth in

Southeast Saline. By improving existing corridors and making accommodations for future corridor improvements, this project will minimize the impacts of future development in Southeast Salina.

OTHER COMPLETED PROJECTS

Schilling Road Bridge:

Reconstruction of the Schilling Road Bridge over the Dry Creek Channel, located west of I-135, was completed in November, 2000. The project involved replacement of the existing concrete span bridge with a box culvert bridge. This project not only included bridge reconstruction but a widening of Schilling Road to four lanes over the bridge, construction of sidewalk on the north side of Schilling Road and the addition of a left-turn lane on the west leg of the Schilling/Virginia intersection

Centennial Road Improvement:

Construction on the Centennial Road Improvement Project was completed in September, 2000. This project involved pavement reconstruction from Crawford Street to Schilling Road. The project included drainage improvements, pavement widening and installation of traffic signal systems at the intersections of Centennial Road/Magnolia Road and Centennial Road/Schilling Road.

CITY PARTICIPATES IN UNDOING RACISM INITIATIVE

In alignment with the National League of Cities' Initiative to "Undo Racism", Salinas Mayor, Alan Jilka declared September 20, 2000 as Undoing Racism day for the City of Salina. A proclamation was read at the City Commission and signed by Mayor Jilka. The nation wide effort led by National League of Cities' President and Wichita Mayor Bob Knight, focuses on the causes of racism and what steps each individual community needs to take in dealing with the negative impacts of racism.

Along with a citywide poster and essay contest, the City Commission and several City personnel viewed the video documentary the "Color of Fear." The theme of the Poster Contest was "Our Colorful Community". The city received nearly 200 entries. The prizes for the Mayor's Poster Contest, for kids 6 to 8, 9 to 12, and Mayor's Essay Contest, for kids 13 to



Mayor Jilka awarding one of the winners.

16, were given at the Week Without Violence Luncheon. Winners were as follows: Essay Contest - 1st Kimberly Lamer; 2nd Lauren Shafer. Poster 6-8: 1st Nicole Palen, 2nd Caitlyn Berry; 9-12: 1st Lisa Pahls, 2nd Haley Brown.

Policy of Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability

The City of Salina does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities.

Jason Gage, Assistant City Manager, has been designated to coordinate compliance with nondiscrimination requirements contained in section 35-107 of the Department of Justice regulations. Information concerning the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the rights provided thereunder, are available from the ADA coordinator.

For information, contact:

ADA Coordinator
Jason Gage
Assistant City Manager
City of Salina
300 W. Ash
Salina, Kansas 67401
Phone: 826-7250
(TDD) 826-7333

Articles were written by City Staff, with design by Rocky Bumgarner and LaDonna Bennett. Questions/Comments? Call the City Manager's Office at 826-7250

BULK RATE
CAR-RT SORT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SALINA, KS
Permit No. 4000

Residential Patron
Salina, KS 67401

City Commissioners wants to hear from you

Members of the Salina City Commission are always interested in your comments and suggestions on city services and policies.

Each Commissioner welcomes letters and telephone calls. Write them at P.O. Box 736, Salina, KS 67402-0736.

The Commissioners phone numbers are listed below:

Alan E. Jilka	827-0002
Kristin M. Seaton	825-7926
Monte Shadwick	827-6761
Don Heath	827-8142
Larry L. Mathews	823-8228